

Town of Tolland Annual Report Tolland Animal Control

This year the town deal with several problems as far as dogs/cats/wildlife were concerned:

1. **Stray dogs** (dogs that were not claimed after advertising and the town holding them for ten days). We had three such dogs in 2003. Two of the dogs were found homes after the holding period. The third dog was humanely euthanized at the vets after it was determined that he was too aggressive to place in a home.
2. **Loose Dogs** (licensed dogs that belong to townspeople that are roaming) this was by far the type of call that took up most of my time. Unfortunately, it was the same dogs time after time. The dogs were brought to the town kennel and claimed by their owners. Tolland does have a by-law that says your dogs must be in your control at all times.... Your dog should NOT be roaming out of your yard!
3. **Barking dogs**- Tolland does not have a by law against barking dogs but keeping your neighbors on your good side and also being considerate of others should be commonplace. Please do not let your dogs bark all day or night. Bring them inside or keep them quiet starting at a reasonable hour of the night and ending at a reasonable time in the morning!
4. I had a few calls this year with people that were concerned about dogs being housed outside. Please make sure that your dog has food, water and shelter. If the dog is a breed that can be outside year round they should still have an insulated doghouse with a covering on the door or something on the floor (straw etc) so they can get warm and be out of the wind.
5. **Rabies**- Check with your vet to determine the proper vaccination schedule for the type of animal you own including livestock. Dogs and Cats have to have rabies shots per Massachusetts State Law. If you dog or cat is outside and comes home with a wound on its body please visit your vet and call the animal inspector to see that procedures you need to take to protect you and your family from rabies. If your dog kills a wild animal or your house pet bites someone you should also call right away! 413-258-4089

Please remember to **license your dog in April** for the coming year! If you miss the May 1st deadline call the town clerk and get it done as soon as possible! It is also a good idea to keep your dogs vet records with copies of your current rabies certificate in a safe place in both your home and car. Remember to call me when you see a strange dog and don't approach it yourself.

Thank you,
Joanne Duval